

REMARKS

Claims 10, 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, 27, 28, 31 and 32 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added by way of this response. Thus, claims 10-12, 14-19, and 22-37 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Objections Under Section 112:

The terms “the other network component” and “the respective component” have been amended in claim 10 as agreed upon during the Examiner Interview. Furthermore, claim 10 has been amended to remove the term “sends information pertaining to the of the respective component”. The term “the state information information sent” in claim 10 and the term “monitoring a state of the respective monitored component by each monitored component” in claim 23 have been amended to overcome the Section 112 rejection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 112 rejections.

Response to Rejections Under Section 102:

Claims 10-12, 14, 17-19, 22-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Sekizawa(US PGPub 2002/0138612).

Applicant’s monitoring of claim 10 is of a “**voice call state**” which “indicates an availability of the respective one of the plurality of network components for **voice communication**”. Applicant respectfully submits that Sekizawa monitoring is of a printer which does not provide a voice communication and monitors a state of the printer. A state of a printer would not reasonably be considered by those skilled in the art as monitoring a voice call state.

Furthermore, claim 10 recites “**each** of the plurality of network components is: ... **monitorable by each of the other of the plurality of network components** via the processing unit, and **equipped for monitoring** each of the other plurality of network components via the communication unit”. Sekizawa does not teach or suggest that an agent unit is monitorable by a printer, let alone that the a voice call state of the agent unit is monitored.

Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the reasons above, independent claim 10 is not anticipated by Sekizawa. Furthermore, claims 11, 12, 14, 17-19, 22-37 are patentable at

least based on their dependency as well as based on their own merits. For example, claim 12 recites “*a maximum number of addresses stored is predetermined*”. Merely having information getting, printer serial number, IP address, monitoring agent units and monitored units does not teach or suggest a maximum number of addresses stored is *predetermined*.

Applicants further submit that independent claim 23 has similar limitations to claim 10 is also patentable as well as claims 24-32 which depend thereon. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submit that a proper rejection was not provided for claims 29 which is not substantially the same as any other claim

Response to Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Sekizawa in view of Coussement (US PGPub 2002/0114278).

For at least the reasons discussed in connection with the Section 102 rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Section 103 rejection.

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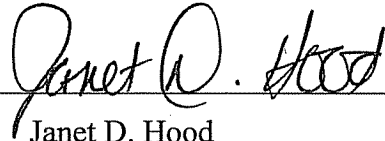
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



Janet D. Hood
Registration No. 61,142
(407) 736-4234

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830